

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A dielectric barrier discharge type external-electrode discharge lamp comprising:

a glass tube whose ends are sealed to form a discharge space in which a discharge medium is enclosed; and

two electrodes, each of the electrodes being provided on an outer circumference of a respective end of the glass tube, and the two electrodes and portions of the glass tube between the two electrodes and the discharge space equivalently functioning as a first capacitor and a second capacitor during operation, wherein

a capacitance of the first capacitor and a capacitance of the second capacitor have been adjusted to be equal or close in value.

2. (Original) The external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein

a difference between values of the capacitance of the first capacitor and the capacitance of the second capacitor is less than or equal to 20% of a smaller one of the values.

3. (Currently Amended) The external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein

portions, of inner circumferential surfaces of the ends of the glass tube, that correspond to the two electrodes are substantially congruent with respect to shape.

4. (Original) A manufacturing method for an external-electrode discharge lamp including a glass tube sealed at a first site and a second site, the glass tube having a

discharge space in which a discharge medium is enclosed at a reduced pressure, the manufacturing method comprising:

a fixing step of fixing an insert to an inner circumferential surface of the first site, the insert including an end face having a shape substantially the same as a portion of the sealed first site facing the discharge space when the second site is sealed, the end face facing the discharge space, and an exterior and an interior of the glass tube being linked;

a depressurization/filling step of depressurizing the interior of the glass tube and filling the discharge medium; and

a plugging step of plugging a portion linking the exterior and the interior of the glass tube in the fixing step.

5. (Original) The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 4, further comprising:

a tentative sealing step of tentatively sealing a site of the glass tube outward of the insert that was fixed to the glass tube, wherein

the tentative sealing step is performed between the filling step and the plugging step.

6. (Original) The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 4, wherein

the insert includes a through hole passing between end faces thereof,

an entirety of an outer circumferential surface of the insert and an inner circumferential surface of the glass tube are fused in the fixing step, and

the through hole is plugged in the plugging step.

7. (Original) The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of claim 4, wherein

the insert is constituted from glass including a component substantially the same as the glass tube.

8. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing method for the external-electrode discharge lamp of ~~any of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4, wherein

the second site is tip-off sealed, and

the first site is sealed after the second site has been sealed.

9. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit including the external-electrode discharge lamp of ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 as a light source.

10. (Original) The backlight unit of claim 9 being a direct-type backlight unit using a plurality of the external-electrode discharge lamps.